

PUBLIC FORESTLAND

At a Glance

Percent of Kentucky land base covered by public forests2%

Largest track of public forestland in Kentucky
DBNF . . 695,000 acres

Timber harvests on public forestland
■ DBNF
1989 . . 45.1 mill. bd. ft.
1999 . . 1.5 mill. bd. ft.
■ LBL
1989 . . 7.1 mill. bd. ft.
19990 bd. ft.
■ State forests
1989 . . 1.19 thou. bd. ft.
19990 bd. ft.

Indicator 7. Public Forestland

Background Public forestlands make up about 896,622 acres or 2 percent of Kentucky's land base, according to 1988 U.S. Forest Service data. These public forests support a wealth of biological diversity and contribute significantly to the state's \$8.8 million tourism industry.¹

The Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF) is the largest block of publicly owned lands in Kentucky. The DBNF covers over 695,000 acres within 21 eastern Kentucky counties. The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) encompasses 170,000 acres in western Kentucky and Tennessee. Other public forests include the Mammoth Cave National Park, five state forests,² 40 state nature preserves and 33 state wildlife management areas. Some of these public lands are open to timber harvesting including the DBNF, state forests and the LBL.

Goal Promote the sustainability of Kentucky's forest ecosystems.

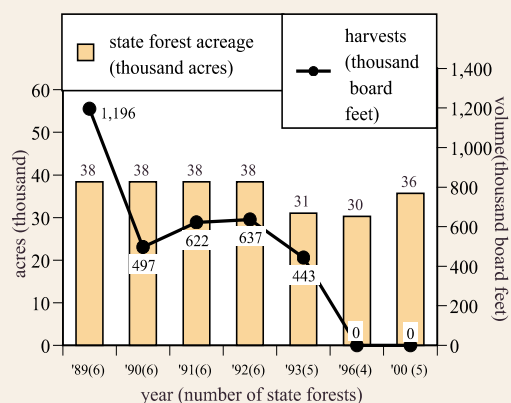
Progress

State Forests. Kentucky's five state-owned forests support recreation, hunting, fishing and camping uses. Timber harvests on state forests were suspended in 1996 to conduct inventories of the forests. The inventories will provide data necessary to manage the forests as ecosystems. An Ecosystem Management Plan has been drafted for the Pennyryle State Forest. Data collection is now underway to develop the Kentucky Ridge State Forest Plan. The Pennyryle State Forest Plan contains a set of "Guiding Principles for Ecosystem Management on Kentucky State Forests," a history of the forest, a description of the forest and individual watersheds, inventory methods used, and a set of goals and strategies to achieve the plan's objectives.

Daniel Boone National Forest. Each year, an estimated 5 million people visit the Daniel Boone National Forest. In addition, the forest provides habitat to dozens of species of wildlife including 36 federally threatened and endangered species. Efforts are underway by the U.S. Forest Service to revise the Daniel Boone National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan with an emphasis on sustainability, ecosystem health, multiple benefits to people, collaboration and use of the best available science. The plan is expected to be drafted by 2002-2003. Timber harvests also occur on the DBNF. Timber sales reached an all-time high in 1989 at 45.1 million board feet, but since then have dropped 76 percent in 1999 when 1.5 million board feet was harvested from the forest. The decline in timber sales is attributed to a new emphasis on recreation and ecosystem management, as well as lawsuits and appeals challenging timber sales.

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. In 1994, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) developed the LBL Forest Management Plan, which included forest management practices. In the plan, TVA proposed to sell an average of 5.3 million board feet of timber a year over the next decade. The U.S. Forest Service assumed management of the LBL in 1999. At that time all timber sales were suspended. Timber sales will resume in 2001. The U.S. Forest Service plans to prepare its own Land and Resource Management Plan for the LBL in the next few years.

**Measure 1. Harvesting
Trends in State Forests of Kentucky**



NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC FORESTLAND

Footnotes

1. In 2000, travelers to Kentucky spent \$8.8 million. This spending generated \$777,109,116 in state tax revenues and employed 163,486. Tourism is Kentucky's third largest industry and second largest employer. Source: Ky. Tourism Cabinet.

2. Kentucky's 5 state forests are: **Pennyrile Forest** (14,654 acres in Christian, Hopkins, Caldwell counties) – Four tracts (201 acres) have been added to the forest since 1996. These tracts were purchased for the purpose of consolidating forest through the elimination of in-holdings.

Kentucky Ridge Forest (15,251 acres in Bell County) – Two tracts (3,888 acres) were added to the Kentucky Ridge State Forest since 1996 for use as timber management, wildlife management, recreation and education. One tract will also protect a large area of the north face of Pine Mountain.

Kentonia Forest (4,227 acres in Harlan County) - Since 1996, two tracts totaling 653 acres have been added to the forest for the purpose of road access and connecting two existing tracts.

Tygarts Forest (800 acres in Carter County).

Green River State Forest (703 acres in Henderson County) - This is a new 703-acre state forest that was acquired through an interagency deed of conveyance with the Economic Development Cabinet and the Finance Cabinet on July 20, 1998. It is a bottomland hardwood ecosystem.

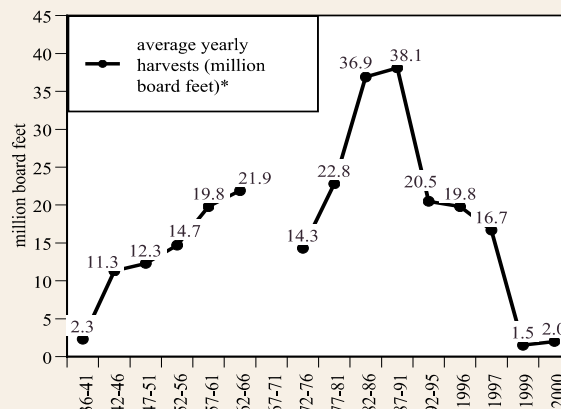
Measures - notes and sources

Measure 1. Source: Ky. Division of Forestry.

Measure 2. *Based on 4-year averages 1936-1995. 1936-61 are actual average harvest volumes for those years depicted, 1976-93 data represents averages for volume sold under contract which may not necessarily be what was harvested that year. Data not available for 1967-71. Source: U.S. Forest Service.

Measure 3. Source: Tn. Valley Authority, U.S. Forest Service, Ky. Division of Forestry.

Measure 2. Logging Trends in the Daniel Boone National Forest



Measure 3. Logging Trends in Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

